

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 072151

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 1503, ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN CAIRO  
DAMASCUS BAGHDAD LONDON PARIS TEL AVIV JERUSALEM USUN NEW YORK  
20 MARCH:

QUOTE S E C R E T BEIRUT 1503

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MILI, LE, IS

SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: NO LAW NORTH OF LITANI

1. THERE IS AN ESSENTIAL FACT ABOUT SITUATION ON GROUND  
HERE THAT WE MUST BEAR IN MIND IN WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS  
FOR UN FORCE IN SOUTH LEBANON; SOUTHERN LIMIT OF ADF IS  
THE ZAHRANI RIVER, NOT THE LITANI. BETWEEN THE ZAHRANI AND THE  
LITANI THERE ARE NEITHER SYRIAN NOR LEBANESE FORCES, ONLY  
PALESTINIAN. ACTUALLY, SYRIAN LINE RUNS ROUGHLY FROM REFINERY  
AT ZAHRANI VILLAGE TO KAHR HUNAH, WHICH IS WELL NORTH OF ZAHRANI  
RIVER. A LOOK AT MAP WILL SHOW THAT THIS LEAVES PALESTINIAN BELT  
ROUGHLY TWENTY KILOMETERS DEEP RUNNING RIGHT ACROSS LEBANON FROM  
COAST TO MOUNTAINS.

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2. IF UN FORCE CONCEPT IS TO WORK, AND REFUGEES IN  
NORTH ARE TO HAVE ACCESS TO SOUTH, ADF WILL HAVE TO ADVANCE  
TO LITANI. THERE SHOULD BE NO GAP BETWEEN ADF AND  
UNIFIL.

3. RELATED SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CHAMOUN CLAIMS IRAQIS ARE  
SENDING LARGE QUANTITIES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING

TANKS, TO PALESTINIANS VIA SYRIA. (DANY CHAMOUN SAYS FORTY TANKS ARRIVED IN LEBANON ON MARCH 19, BUT UNDER CONTROL OF SYRIANS WHO WILL PUT THEM WHERE THE PALESTINIANS CAN'T GET THEIR HANDS ON THEM.) CAMILLE CHAMOUN HAS CALLED THIS TO ATTENTION FONMIN BOUTROS, WHO SAID IF TRUE THIS WAS VERY DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT AND HE WOULD LOOK INTO IMMEDIATELY. HE ASKED ME WHAT LEBANESE SHOULD DO. I SUGGESTED HE TALK TO SYRIANS AS FIRST STEP. HE NOTED SYRIAN LEADERS LEAVING FOR INDIA TOMORROW OR NEXT DAY BUT SAID HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO.

4. WE ARE TOLD PALESTINIANS ARE RATHER PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF ISRAELI OFFENSIVE BECAUSE IT HAS OPENED UP THE COFFERS OF THE GULF STATES AGAIN AND THEY ARE RECEIVING PROMISES OF AID AND SUPPORT ACROSS THE BOARD. IF ARAB SISTER STATES SUCH AS IRAQ ARE GOING TO START REINFORCING PALESTINIANS (SHI'A DEPUTIES ALLEGE 400 IRAQI VOLUNTEERS SEEN AT GHAZIYA JUST NORTH OF ZAHRANI AFTERNOON OF MARCH 19), AND PARTICULARLY IF THEY START GIVING THEM TANKS, WE ARE IN FOR SERIOUS INTERNAL, IF NOT AREA, TROUBLES. CHRISTIAN MILITANTS WILL NOT STAND STILL FOR IT, AND THERE MAY BE A DONEYBROOK WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY DRAG IN OTHER ARAB STATES. PARKER INQUOTE. VANCE

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